

H. Con. Res. 314, Recognizing and Supporting American Veterans, H. Con. Res. 165, Support for Continued Fibroid Cancer Research and H. Con. Res. 309, Importance of Good Cervical Health & Early Detection of Cervical Cancer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 171, 172 and 173. I was regrettably absent from the chamber today during rollcall votes 171, 172 and 173. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4187

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4187, Presidential Records Act amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE U.S. PROFESSIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a special tribute to some very special athletes and to an incredibly important entrepreneur. To paraphrase one of my favorite Presidents: "Those who say that there are no more American heroes, well, they just don't know where to look."

For too long, there have been too few women athletes for girls to look up to. A brave entrepreneur named Bill Kennedy decided to change all that. He created the U.S. Professional Volleyball League. This was their inaugural season.

They assembled some of the finest women athletes and put together an exciting season. If you thought 30-inch vertical jumps were only for the NBA, you would be wrong. Fans responded by filling arenas and cheering to the top of their lungs.

Now, I admit that we are especially proud of Coach Tore Aleksandersen, General Manager Kevin Rueten, and all the members of the Minnesota Chill. They won both the regular season and the playoff championship. Rochester is proud to call them our home team.

Perhaps even better than seeing the Chill win the championship was to see

the adoration in the eyes of young girls who came to cheer for their local heroes.

We all need heroes and role models. We were blessed to find a new group in the Chill and in the entire league. We saw little of the bad behavior which has become so commonplace in modern day sports. We were treated to spirited competition that parents could be proud to take their children to. I have little doubt that the league will grow and prosper.

Congratulations again to all the members of the Minnesota Chill for their championship in this inaugural season and thank you again to Bill Kennedy for giving us this new league and a wonderful group of new heroes.

EAST TIMOR'S INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this week, on the other side of the globe, the world celebrates the creation of a new democracy, the Democratic Republic of East Timor. I congratulate and honor the people of this island nation for their perseverance and for the triumph of freedom over oppression.

The effort to bring self-determination to East Timor was a dream back in 1994, when I first came to the House. But now, today, it is a reality. Since coming to Congress, I have seen how the East Timorese people have stood against tremendous odds, resisted military rule, despite the killing of one-third of the population in the 1970s and the oppression and massacres of subsequent years.

There have been many of us in Congress dedicated to the plight of the East Timorese largely because of the information we learned over years of meetings and visits with the residents of East Timor. I personally had the opportunity to go to East Timor to visit with Bishop Belo, one of the two Nobel Peace prize winners. They and others were willing to give me their stories, tell me what was going on.

In that context, Mr. Speaker, and with the work of groups such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, and I might add the Catholic Conference of Bishops was a tremendous help in this effort, as well as the Indonesian Human Rights Network, and, of course, East Timor Action Network, all who were instrumental, everyone should feel very proud of this effort and outcome.

Let me just conclude by saying we are at a critical time now with this new democracy. We need to give it all the support it can get so that it can establish itself and make a difference for the people of East Timor.

As we move forward, however, we cannot forget the need to continue to show our support for East Timor's sustainable development and a positive future.

The United States should work with the United Nations and its members to make sure that the job of preparing East Timor for self-rule is completed.

Enough proper expertise and funds must be provided to ensure a smooth transition in government services and to train East Timorese to fully manage their own affairs.

After decades of tremendous suffering under military occupation, we need to give generously to East Timor to ensure that children are guaranteed a quality education, adequate healthcare and shelter, and that other needs for a decent standard of living are met.

This is especially crucial in light of the recently released United Nations Development Program Report that classified East Timor as one of the twenty poorest countries in the world and the poorest in Asia.

Life expectancy in the island nation is just 57 years, and nearly half the population lives on less than fifty-five American cents (\$.55) per day.

This burgeoning democracy will need our hand as we move into the Twenty First Century.

I look forward to working with my Colleagues in Congress on these issues and these challenges.

But today, we celebrate the perseverance and the spirit of the East Timorese and we celebrate the creation of democracy.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON BILL MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight tonight, May 20, 2002, to file a privileged report on a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 1 of rule XXI, points of order are reserved.

SUPPORT OUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, a number of Members came on the floor during 1-minute speeches, based on a report that was in on CBS News reporting that there was some speculation, if you will, that President Bush actually knew the events of September 11 would happen and that he did nothing to prevent them. To say I was outraged would minimize my feelings on this issue.

I wanted to address this Chamber late Thursday because, as I heard these speakers one by one mount the podium to challenge the Commander in Chief